

THE IDAHO STATE FLAG

“An Appaloosa’s favorite state symbol is the Idaho flag, and every young colt’s greatest ambition is to carry a state flag through an Idaho parade. I had the opportunity to display the flag during the Idaho Centennial parade in 1991. The streets were lined with spectators, and when I passed, along side a fellow Appaloosa carrying an American flag, the crowd stood together with their hands on their hearts and watched in silence. It was my proudest moment.

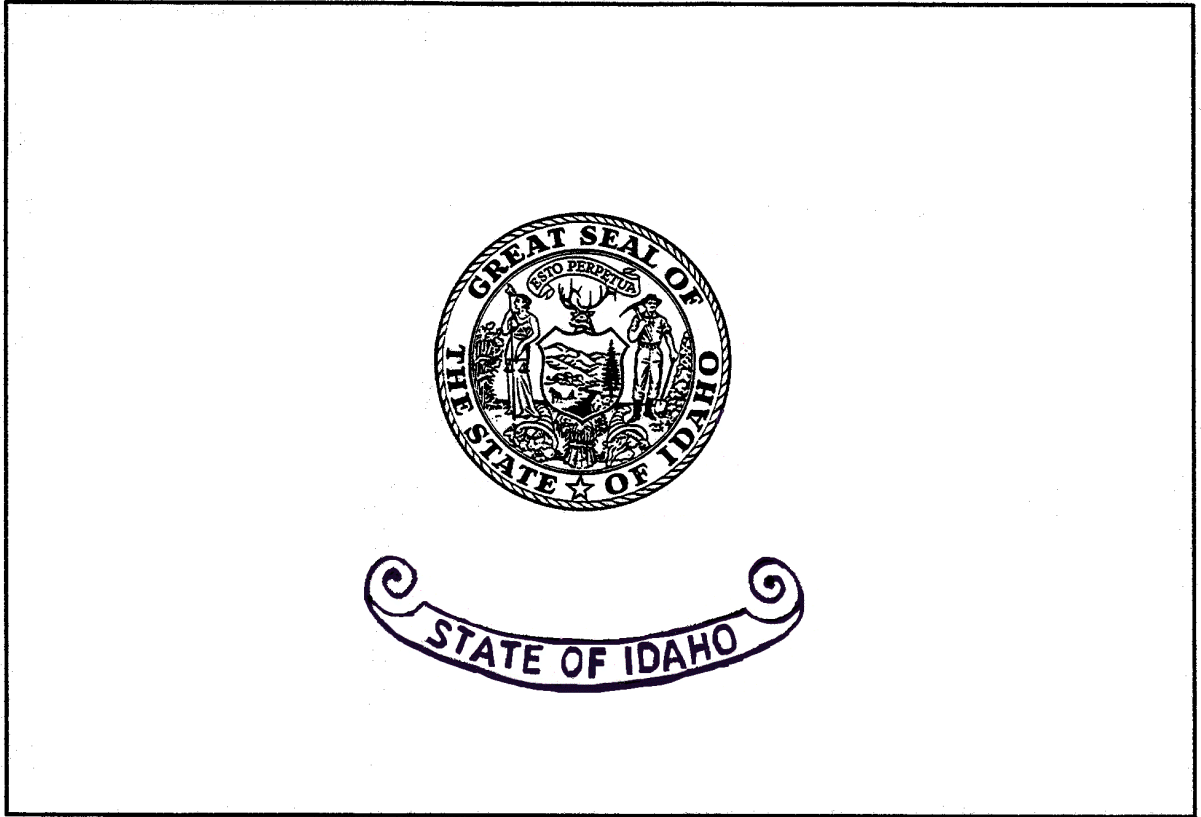
“The design for the original Idaho state flag goes back to the battle flag which the First Idaho Infantry used in the Philippines in 1899 during the Spanish American War. The battle flag contained a picture based upon the Idaho Territorial Seal, with the name of the regiment under the picture on a blue field. By legislative act of March 12, 1907, a silk flag with a blue field, 5 feet by 6 inches fly was created.. 4 feet 4inches on pike is bordered by gilt fringe 2 1/2 inches wide with the State Seal of Idaho in the Center. The words “State of Idaho” were embroidered in gold block letters two inches high on a red band below the Seal.

“The seal in the center of the flag symbolizes Idaho main industries -- mining, agriculture and forestry -- and highlights the state’s natural beauty. It was created in 1890 by Emma Edwards Green, the only woman to design a state seal. She offered the following statement about the meaning of the seal:

Before designing the seal, I was careful to make a thorough study of the resources and future possibilities of the State. I invited other citizens qualified to help in creating a Seal of State that really represented Idaho at that time. Idaho had been admitted into the Union on July 3rd, 1890. The first state Legislature met in Boise on December 8, 1890, and on March 14th, 1891, adopted my design for the Great Seal of the State of Idaho.

The question of Woman Suffrage was being agitated somewhat, and as leading men and politicians agreed that Idaho would eventually give women the right to vote, and as mining was the chief industry, and the mining man the largest financial factor of the state at that time, I made the figure of the man the most prominent in the design, while that of the woman, signifying justice, as noted by the scales; liberty, as denoted by the liberty cap on the end of the spear, and equality with man as denoted by her position at his side, also signifies freedom. The pick and shovel held by the miner, and the ledge of rock beside which he stands, as well as the pieces of ore scattered about his feet, all indicate the chief occupation of the State. The stamp mill in the distance, which you can see by using a magnifying glass, is also typical of the mining interest of Idaho. The shield between the man and the woman is emblematic of the protection they unite in giving the state. The large fir or pine tree in the foreground in the shield refers to Idaho's immense timber interests. The husbandman plowing on the left side of the shield, together with the sheaf of grain beneath the shield, are emblematic of Idaho's agricultural resources, while the cornucopias, or horns of plenty, refer to the horticultural. Idaho has a game law, which protects the elk and moose. The elk's head, therefore, rises above the shield. The state flower, the wild syringa or Mock Orange, grows at the woman's feet, while the ripened wheat grows as high as her shoulder. The star signifies a new light in the galaxy of states. The river depicted in the shield is our mighty Snake or Shoshone River, a stream of great majesty.

“The original flag created in 1907 was displayed in the State Capitol building for many years. It began to look ragged from wear, and was placed in the Idaho Historical Archives. When a Meridian Elementary fourth grade class realized what had happened to the flag, they began a fundraising effort to restore it. \$5,000 later, the original Idaho flag was cleaned, mended, preserved and placed on permanent display in the Idaho Historical Museum in Boise.”



COLOR THE STATE FLAG

STATE FLAG

A silk flag, with a blue field, 5 feet 6 inches fly, 4 feet 4 inches on pike is bordered by gilt fringe 2 1/2 inches wide, with the State Seal of Idaho in the center. The words "State of Idaho" are embroidered in gold block letters with two inches high on a red band below the Great Seal. Adopted by the 1907 legislature.